a.) Amendments to the Specification

Please substitute paragraph starting at page 3, line 25 and ending at page 4, line 4 with the following replacement paragraph.

As for the phosphorylation, methods using phosphotransferase, kinase and phosphatase are known. In particular, the reaction utilizing kinase or phosphatase has been studied as an efficient method. For example, there have been developed a process for producing a 5'-nucleotide by the use of an *Escherichia coli* strain carrying a gene encoding inosine-guanosine kinase of *Escherichia coli* (W091/08286), a process for producing a 5'-nucleotide by the use of a *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes* strain carrying a gene encoding inosine-guanosine kinase of *Exiguobacterium acetylicum* (W096/30501), and a process for producing a 5'-nucleotide by the use of an *Escherichia coli* strain carrying a gene prepared imparting a random mutation to the acid phosphatase gene of *Morganella morganii* (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 37785/97, Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 201481/98).

Please substitute the paragraphs at page 7, lines 11 through 20 with the following replacement paragraph.

(3) The process according to the above (1), wherein the precursor of the purine nucleotide is guanosine, the enzyme capable of synthesizing the purine nucleotide from said precursor is inosine-guanosine kinase or acid phosphatase, and the purine nucleotide is 5'-guanylic acid.

(4) The process according to the above (1), wherein the precursor of the purine nucleotide is inosine, the enzyme capable of synthesizing the purine nucleotide

from said precursor is inosine-guanosine kinase or acid phosphatase, and the purine nucleotide is 5'-inosinic acid.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, lines 12- 15 to read as follows.

(13) A microorganism having the ability to produce a precursor of a purine nucleotide and carrying an introduced DNA which can express an enzyme capable of synthesizing the purine nucleotide from said precursor ~~said precursor~~ upon induction.

Please substitute the paragraphs at page 8, lines 21 through 30 with the following replacement paragraph.

(15) The microorganism according to the above (13), wherein the precursor of the purine nucleotide is guanosine, the enzyme capable of synthesizing the purine nucleotide from said precursor is inosine-guanosine kinase or acid phosphatase, and the purine nucleotide is 5'-guanylic acid.

(16) The microorganism according to the above (13), wherein the precursor of the purine nucleotide is inosine, the enzyme capable of synthesizing the purine nucleotide from said precursor is inosine-guanosine kinase or acid phosphatase, and the purine nucleotide is 5'-inosinic acid.

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 11, line 31 and ending at page 12, line 1 with the following replacement paragraph.

As the enzyme capable of synthesizing a purine nucleotide from its precursor to be used in the present invention, any enzyme capable of synthesizing a purine

nucleotide from its precursor can be used, and suitable examples include XMP aminase, inosine-guanosine kinase, acid phosphatase and adenylate kinase.

Please substitute the paragraph at page 12, lines 12-15 with the following replacement paragraph.

Genes encoding acid phosphatase include those derived from *Morganella morganii* (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 37785/97, Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 201481/98), etc.

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 12, line 30 and ending at page 13, line 4 with the following replacement paragraph.

In the case of the gene encoding inosine-guanosine kinase, primers are synthesized based on the sequences at both ends of the sequence of an inosine-guanosine kinase structural gene, and the inosine-guanosine kinase structural gene can be obtained by the PCR method using the prepared primers and the *Escherichia coli* chromosomal DNA or the *Exiguobacterium acetylicum* chromosomal DNA. Similarly, by the use of the PCR method, a acid phosphatase structural gene can be obtained from the *Morganella morganii* chromosomal DNA and an adenylate kinase structural gene can be obtained from the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* chromosomal DNA.